

# Resurrection 101: It's People!

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

*Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes*

**NKJV** - *"But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."*

- I. The **PICTURES** of the Resurrection.
- II. The **POWER** of the Resurrection.
- III. The **PROCESS** of the Resurrection.

- I. The **PICTURES** of the Resurrection (v.35-42a)

**Picture #1 - SEEDS:** *"But someone will say, **"HOW are the dead raised up? And with what BODY do they come?" Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body."***

- Paul says our bodies are like "seeds" which "grow" into resurrection bodies. *When you bury the body of a believer, you are "sowing" a "seed" that will come out of the earth as a resurrection body. When you sow seed, you do not expect that same seed to come up at the harvest. The seed dies, but from that death there comes life. Furthermore, what comes up at the harvest is usually more beautiful than what was planted. This is especially true of tulips. Few things are as ugly as a tulip bulb, yet it produces a beautiful flower.*

*Some years ago, an air-tight vase was found in a mummy-pit in Egypt, by the English traveler Wilkinson, who sent it to the British museum. The librarian there, having unfortunately broken it, discovered in it a few grains of wheat and one or two peas, old, wrinkled and hard as stone. The peas were planted carefully under glass on the 4th of June, 1844, and at the end of thirty days these old seeds were seen to spring up into new life. They had been buried 3,000 years ago, perhaps in the time of Moses, and had slept all that time in the tomb. Nonetheless, when buried, the seed fulfilled their original purpose, and blossomed into new life!*

**John 12:24, 32-33** - *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ... 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die."*

*"Dear friends, if such is death for the Christian - if it is simply a planting, then let us be done with all hopeless sorrow... 'Our family circle has been broken,' you say. Yes, but only broken temporarily that it may be re-formed. You have lost a dear friend: yes, but only lost that friend*

*temporarily that you may find him again, and find more than you lost. They are not lost; they are planted as seeds, and they will rise again." - Spurgeon*

**Picture #2 - SKINS:** *"All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds."*

- *There are different types of animals with unique types of skins, hides, and furs. Each of them is suited to its own particular environment and specific needs. Paul is using this as a picture of our present bodies, that are adapted for the environment of time and earth. By contrast, our resurrection bodies will be adapted for the environment of eternity and Heaven.*
- *Paul's conclusion is this: If God is able to make different kinds of bodies for men, animals, birds, and fish, why can He not make a different kind of body for believers in the future resurrection?*  
*"As humans, it's very strange that we are so little reconciled to time that we are even astonished at it. "Oh my, how he's grown!", we exclaim "How the time flies!" as though our experience of time, is again and again a novelty. This is as strange as if a fish were repeatedly surprised at the wetness of water. That would be very strange indeed; unless of course the fish had always been destined to become, one day, a land animal." - CS Lewis*

**Picture #3 - STARS:** *"There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead."*

- In fact, the heavenly bodies differ from each other in glory as far as the human eye is concerned. Betelgeuse, Procyon, Rigel, and Polaris all differ in their brightness and illumination in the night sky. Paul is using this as a picture, suggesting that in the Kingdom of God, believers may differ from each other in glory and capacity, even though all Christians will have resurrection bodies.

- Many Bible teachers say: "**Every cup in heaven will be full, but some cups will be bigger than others!**" because of the faithfulness and sacrifice of those saints when they were on earth.

**1 Cor 3:11-14 NLT** - *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward."*

**Rev 22:12 NKJV** - *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

## II. The **POWER** of the Resurrection (v.42b-44)

It's a Body of **INCORRUPTION!** - ***"The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption."***

- In this section, Paul uses 4 colorful words to describe the condition of our present human bodies: "**corruption**"; "**dishonor**"; "**weakness**"; "**natural**". These are accurate descriptions of our current physical condition!

**"Anabolic" vs. "Catabolic" stages in Biology...**  
*Gradual physical deterioration...*

**Three elderly sisters, ages 92, 94 and 96, shared a house together.** One evening, the 96 year old sister went upstairs to take a bath. As she put her foot into the tub, she paused. Then she yelled down to the other two sisters and asked, "Was I getting in the tub or out?" "You dern fool," said the 94 year old. "I'll come up and see." When she got half way up the stairs she paused. "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92 year old sister was sitting at the kitchen table drinking a cup of tea and thought, "I hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood." She shook her head and called out, "I'll be up to help you both as soon as I see who's at the door."

### **Some 15 year old girlfriends decided to meet for dinner.**

They discussed where to eat and finally agreed on McDonald's next to the Sea Side Restaurant because they only had \$6.50 between them and Bobby Bruce, the cute boy in science class, lived on that street. **20 years later, the same girlfriends, now 35-year-olds,** discussed where to meet for dinner. Finally they agreed to meet at the Sea Side Restaurant because the combos were good, it was near the gym and if they went late enough, there wouldn't be many whiny little kids. **20 years later, the same girlfriends, now 55-year-olds,** discussed where to meet for dinner. Finally they agreed to meet at the Sea Side Restaurant because the prices were reasonable, it had windows which opened (in case of hot flashes), and fish was good for their cholesterol. **20 years later, the same girlfriends, now 75-year-olds,** discussed where to meet for dinner. Finally they agreed to meet at the Sea Side Restaurant because the food wasn't too spicy, it was handicapped accessible, and they'd never been there before!

### **Blessings Of Being "Over The Hill"**

*Things that you buy now won't wear out.*

*Kidnappers are not very interested in you.*

*Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.*

*Your health insurance investment is finally paying off.*

*In a hostage situation you'll be released first.*

*No one expects you to run -- anywhere.*

*Your secrets are safe with your friends, because they can't remember them anyway.*

- **"incorruption"** is the Greek word "
- *"The righteous are put into their graves all weary and worn; but as such they will not rise. They go there with the furrowed brow, the hollowed cheek, the wrinkled skin; they shall wake up in beauty and glory." - Spurgeon*

It's a Body of **GLORY!** - "It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in

**glory."**

- **"glory"** is the Greek word "
- **DL Moody's granddaughter died of pneumonia two days past her fourth birthday.** At the funeral, her grandfather rose and spoke these words: "I would like to say a few words, if I can trust myself. The chariot of God came down to the Connecticut valley yesterday morning about half-past six, and took our little Irene home ... Irene has finished her course. Her work was well wrought on earth. Her voice was the sweetest voice I ever heard on earth. She never met me once since she was three months old, without a smile. My life has been made much better by her life here on earth. She has made us all better. Now, I thank God this morning for the hope of immortality. I know I shall see her in the morning, more beautiful in her resurrection glory than she ever was here." - **DL Moody**

It's a Body of **POWER!** - **"It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."**

- **"power"** is the Greek word "

It's a Body that's **SPIRITUAL!** - **"It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."**

- **"spiritual body"** are the Greek words "

### **III. The PROCESS of the Resurrection (v.45-49)**

**We Resemble the FIRST ADAM. - "And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust.."**

- *We are like Adam in our fragility, weakness, and physical deterioration...*

**We Will Resemble the LAST ADAM. - "...and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we**

***have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."***

- *Phil 3:21 repeats Paul's theme: Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*
- *Since Paul declares that we will bear the image of the heavenly Man, the best example of what our resurrection body will be like is to understand what Jesus' resurrection body was like. The resurrection body of Jesus was material and could eat (Luke 24:39-43), yet it was apparently not bound by our current laws of nature (Luke 24:31,36-37).*

**Resurrection Promises from Christ Himself:**

**Rev 2:7** - *"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*

**Rev 2:11** - *"He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

**Rev 2:17** - *"To him who overcomes..I will give him..a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."*

**Rev 2:26** - *"He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.."*

**Rev 3:5** - *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments..."*

**Rev 3:12** - *"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more."*

**Rev 3:21** - *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.."*

**Rev 21:7** - *"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."*